

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Reed et al.

Serial No: 10/047,991

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For: *Purification of Functional Ribonucleoprotein Complexes*

Examiner: To be assigned

Art Unit: 1645

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*Daniel Murray*  
 DANIEL MURRAY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the specification as follows.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 17-30, with the following replacement paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, the affinity tag binds to an affinity matrix through the intermediate of a fusion protein comprising a polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity tag and a polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity matrix. The affinity tag may comprise at least one MS2 or R17 coat protein recognition site and the polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity tag is an MS2 or R17 coat protein or portion thereof sufficient for binding to the MS2 or R17 coat protein recognition site, respectively. The polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity matrix may be selected from the group consisting of a maltose binding protein; a 6x His peptide (SEQ ID NO: 12); glutathione S transferase; or portion thereof sufficient to bind specifically to an affinity matrix. In one embodiment, the polypeptide